

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 0558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AIR MANPOWER: SPC DISCUSSION OF JANUARY 30

REF: A. STATE 20905 B. STATE 11498

SUMMARY: SPC ON JANUARY 30 CONSIDERED US PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING, WITH OPTIONAL US AND SOVIET PHASE I AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS OF UP TO 15 PERCENT. US REP EMPHASIZED US HOPE THAT THE AHG CAN MAKE THE PROPOSAL TO THE OTHER SIDE DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. DUTCH REP, ON INSTRUCTIONS, MADE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE US PROPOSAL. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON TRANSMIT A TEXT OF DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON THE US PROPOSAL IN TIME FOR INTRODUCTION AT SPC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 6. END SUMMARY

1. US REP (MOORE) DRAWING ON REF A, SAID THAT WASHINGTON HAD CONFIRMED THE US HOPE THAT THE US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL COULD
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BE MADE TO THE OTHER SIDE IN VIENNA DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE STATED THAT THE US MISSION HAD JUST RECEIVED ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN THE MBFR WORKING GROUP, WAS DISTRIBUTING THEM TO WG MEMBERS, AND EXPECTED

TO RECEIVE WASHINGTON RESPONSES TO THE OTHER QUESTIONS SHORTLY. HE NOTED THAT THE US ALREADY HAD TABLED CONSIDERABLE DETAIL REGARDING THE US PROPOSAL IN THE US PAPERS OF DECEMBER 2 AND JANUARY 15. HE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAD ARISEN IN THE SPC WAS THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE US PROPOSAL MAINTAINED A FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. HE SAID THAT THE US HAD ALREADY RESPONDED TO THIS POINT IN SPC, AND NOW DID SO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, DRAWING ON PARA 3 REFTEL A.

2. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS ONE OF THOSE WHICH HAD SUBMITTED QUESTIONS IN THE WORKING GROUP, AND WAS AWAITING A US REPLY. HOWEVER, THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES HAVE ADOPTED A FAVORABLE POSITION TOWARD THE US PROPOSAL. THEY SEE TWO IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES IN THE US PROPOSAL. FIRST, UNLIKE EARLIER PROPOSALS, THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL INDICATES, MORE CLEARLY THAN IN THE PAST, ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER INCLUSION OF AIR ELEMENTS, THIS IS A STEP FORWARD. SECOND, THE US PROPOSAL AVOIDS THE NEED FOR A LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN THE ALLIANCE ON REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES.

3. NETHERLANDS REP ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES THOUGHT THAT THE US PROPOSAL MAY GIVE THE OTHER SIDE CERTAIN PROBLEMS, BECAUSE OF THE GREATER NUMBER OF AIRMEN ON THE PACT SIDE, AND BECAUSE THE PACT WOULD HAVE TO FOREGO THE ADVANTAGE OF RECATEGORY OF THE 40,000 POLISH AND CZECH AREA AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL, WHO WOULD NOW BECOME SUBJECT TO THE COMMON CEILING. HOWEVER, EVEN THIS ASPECT OF THE US PROPOSAL IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE ALLIES, BECAUSE IT CONFRONTS THE WARSAW PACT WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION OF AIR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CAN SUPPORT ANY SUB-CEILING APPROACH WHICH SETS A SUB-CEILING ON GROUND FORCES.

4. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT DUTCH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT CONCERNED THAT THE US PROPOSAL MAY SET A PRECEDENT FOR AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. MANY ASPECTS OF THE ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION ONLY CONCERN PHASE I, AND NO ONE WOULD ARGUE THAT THEY
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SET PRECEDENTS FOR PHASE II.

5. FRG REP (HOYNCK) REITERATED FRG SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING AS A PROPOSAL IN ITS OWN RIGHT, WHILE ALLIES CONTINUE TO CONSIDER US/SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

6. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID NETHERLANDS THINKING HAD OBVIOUSLY PROGRESSED FURTHER THAN THINKING IN LONDON. HE STRESSED THAT THE UK HAS AN OPEN MIND ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID UK CONTINUES TO DOUBT THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BUY VERY MUCH FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

7. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) NOTED VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IF THE

ALLIES OFFER AIR MANPOWER PRIOR TO AN OFFER ON OPTION III, THE SOVIETS WILL SIMPLY "POCKET" THE AIR MANPOWER OFFER. CANADIAN REP (ROY) QUESTIONED WHETHER PROGRESS IN MBFR WAS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF CSCE, AND WHETHER THIS WAS THEREFORE THE BEST TIME FOR INTRODUCTION OF AN ALLIED OFFER ON AIR MANPOWER. IN RESPONSE, US REP NOTED THAT THE OTHER SIDE DOES HAVE AN INTEREST IN PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION, AND CITED THE US PAPER ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS BASED ON REF B. HE SAID THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT NO PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE, BUT SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION IN A WAY WHICH WILL ADVANCE BASIC ALLIED NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES. HE REVIEWED THE REASONS WHY THE ALLIED PROPOSAL SHOULD INTEREST THE EAST. HE NOTED THE ARGUMENT JUST MADE BY THE DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE: THAT REGARDLESS OF THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE US PROPOSAL, IT WILL CONFRONT THE WARSAW PACT WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION OF AIR IN THE NEGOTIATION.

8. SPEC NEXT CONSIDERS AIR MANPOWER ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION BELIEVES THAT SPC DISCUSSION ON US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL HAS PROGRESSED FAIR ENOUGH FOR US NOW TO INTRODUCE A SPECIFIC TEXT AS DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE AHG. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON TRANSMIT SUCH A TEXT IN TIME FOR US TO INTRODUCE IT AT SPC MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6.
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